

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VIRGIN RIVER WATER USER'S MEETING

February 15, 1967 - 1:10 P.M. to 2:40 P.M.  
Washington County Courthouse Auditorium

Noted  
(P) 3.2.67

The meeting was brought to order by Hubert C. Lambert, the State Engineer of Utah. Mr. Lambert suggested that a temporary chairman be appointed since the regular chairman was not available for the meeting. It was also suggested that someone act as secretary to record the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Evan J. Woodbury agreed to act as chairman and Mr. Lambert appointed Gerald Stoker, Area Engineer for the State Engineer's Office to take the minutes.

Mr. Woodbury asked that the minutes of the past meeting be read. The minutes were read from the commissioners report by Gerald Stoker. They were approved as read.

Clifford Ruesch, Virgin River Water Commissioner, was asked to give his report. Mr. Ruesch gave a brief report concerning the flow of the Virgin River, the amount of storage and the use of the water stored, and the water year in general. He considered that the water year was very near normal. He also commented on the high water that appeared during a storm in the early part of December, 1966. It was noted that most of the diversion dams on the Virgin River were taken out by the flood waters and that considerable damage was received by those adjacent to the river channel. Another problem was brought up by Mr. Ruesch concerning the high water right of a Melvin Fawcett located below Hurricane on the river. Evidently Mr. Fawcett had been taking water from the river anytime he considered the water to be above average. Mr. Ruesch was instructed by Mr. Lambert to inform Mr. Fawcett that he would be held in violation if he, Mr. Fawcett, took the water without permission from Mr. Ruesch or the State Engineer's Office.

Mr. Ruesch also explained the over expenditures of the budget as necessary items that arose everytime a canal would break or a surge of water appeared in the river. It would be necessary for the water commissioner to make the adjustments on the other diversions to take care of the water. The Hurricane Canal and the LaVerkin Canal broke several times each and caused extra work for Mr. Ruesch.

Evan Lee brought up the question of his own third class water right on the river and thought that the method of assessment should be looked into. It was noted on the State Engineer's records that he was being assessed on the same weighted basis as those who had second class rights and who received more water during the year. The State Engineer promised that this would be evaluated for future assessments. Mr. Lee also requested that the water users consider his plea for additional water. He later put this in the form of a motion but the motion died for lack of a second. He was advised to contact the Virgin River Water Users Committee so that they might study his plea.

The commissioners report was voted for acceptance through a motion by Raymond DeMille, seconded by Donald Lamoreaux.

The Financial Report was read and explained by Frank Reese, Controller for the State Engineer's Office. The assessments were again questioned and finally a motion to study a more equitable method or system of assessment regarding the second and third class rights was



made by Raymond DeMille, seconded Brueck and carried unanimously. Mr. Lambert advised Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, to make this study and advise the water users as soon as it had been completed.

*Budget & assessment*  
A motion was made by Evan S. Lee for the group to accept the financial report as stated. It was seconded by Raymond DeMille and carried. The budget was set at \$1950.00 by a motion from Raymond DeMille and seconded by Charles Esplin. The motion carried. It also included the statement that the assessment and budget would agree (the same figure).

Mr. Esplin brought up the subject of storage in Navajo Lake and the proposal of the Forest Service and Fish and Game Dept. to change the control of the water and storage in the lake. Mr. Esplin was advised that the project was now under study by the Forest Service and that the State Engineer would be informed of the results of this study. It was noted that very little control was placed on the headgate for the past few years and that someone should have authority to regulate this diversion. The State Engineer's Office will take this item under advisement and will report on it at a later date. A motion was made to this effect by Charles Esplin, seconded by Raymond DeMille and Evan S. Lee and carried.

A motion was made to accept Clifford Ruesch as the Virgin River Water Commissioner for the year 1967 by Raymond DeMille, seconded by Donald Lamoreaux and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

#### Those in Attendance

##### Name

Frederick R. Brueck  
Donald C. Lamoreaux  
Raymond DeMille  
Clifford Ruesch  
Charles C. Esplin  
Evan S. Lee  
Gerald W. Stoker  
Hubert C. Lambert  
Evan J. Woodbury  
Donald C. Norseth  
Frank Reese

##### Representing

Zion National Park  
Clarence Lamoreaux Estate  
President Hurricane Canal Co.  
Commissioner  
Charles H. Esplin Estate  
Evan Lee Ditch  
Area Engineer, State Engineer's Office  
State Engineer  
St. George-Washington Canal Co.  
Distribution Engineer, State Engineer's  
Controller, State Engineer's Office